1:Sanders Z-5,4 (1952-1959) 1962 EH1 Greece EH1

342 nate enough to find a description already written by a man of village origin which presents in nontechnical terms the typical house of the central Peloponnesos:

[231] [333] [178] The houses are usually storeyed. The animals are kept in the ground floor and the people live above. The houses are made from stones taken by the *mastora* [master builder] either from the mountain or the river. Nowadays most of the houses have replaced slate with tiles. Most of the houses have no ceiling but the room extends up to the beams, so one can see the whole wooden construction of the roof.

[712] Each house has its *liakoto*, or balcony, which faces toward the mountains. Windows of the houses are small and in many houses you can still see the holes in the wall through which guns were fired at outsiders. The older people used to say that they made windows small so as not to pay a high tax to the Turks [before 1829]. The smaller the window, the lower the taxes you paid. From [247] outside you see on the balconies and window sill pots full of carnations, basil, zinnias, and other flowers. The plans of the houses follow the regular mountain pattern. Each man tries to make his home nicer than his neighbor's. The space and the slope regulate the shape. The height of the house is regulated by the slope. Many times the tiles on the top part of the house touch the soil. To avoid having the goats climb on the roof, the upper wall is built higher [than the roof] so that each house has its own design, but altogether they form a beautiful pattern.

252 Outside each house next to the wall is the oven. Our oven is not round and made out of earth as they are in Megara [a village near Athens] and the islands. [184] It is built with stones. To protect people from getting wet when it rains, they have built a roof on top. This place is called *phournario*. During the summer time the people also do their cooking near the oven, and throughout the year light it every other day or once a week, depending upon how much baking they have to do.

351 Each house has its own courtyard. It is fenced with stones and holm oak bushes, which have been cut and put in place so as to prevent the animals from [245] entering. Most of the courtyards have a grape arbor or some trees such as fig, mulberry, pomegranate, almond, or olive.[13]

342 184 Now and then one comes across villages where the houses are perpendicular rather than parallel to the slope on which they are built. This is due, according to George Megas, to the difficulty of blasting out sufficient rock to form the foundation of the house. Much less of the precious gunpowder is needed to blast out the narrow part rather than the long part. The house [231] thus extends out from the slope, affording considerable room for the base- [251] ment where the animals, agricultural implements, fodder, and fruit are stored. Sometimes there is a direct stairway from the basement to the upper story, consisting chiefly of the main living room; often the stairway is outside the house, usually built in front of the house and ending on a wide landing.

1:Sanders Z-5,4 (1952-1959) 1962 EH1 Greece EH1

342 "Are most of the houses in this village like this one?"

"Yes, only the priest and the teacher have two rooms in their homes, but people here are beginning to think about building bigger houses."

"How do you go about building a house such as this?"

"Oh, we get all the materials together and then call one of the builders who lives here in the village. It may take us quite a while to collect the material, depending upon the prices we get paid for our crops. We have to pay the master builder fifty drachmas a day; it usually takes him about fifteen days, since members of the family help him. We need him because he knows best how to place the stone in the walls so they will be firm."

The woman showed little interest in the actual details of construction, but quickly passed to the ceremonies connected with a new house. She pointed out that when the cornerstone was laid the family and relatives came together, cut the throat of a cock, and let the blood spill on the four corners of the house, selecting the eastern corner first. Just prior to this ceremony, money was thrown out to the workers. Customs vary, as we discovered, as to just what was buried in the cornerstone, but in this Peloponnesian village the family buried earth from a sacred place near the village where they had found a treasured ikon; they also included a small wooden cross and an ikon of the Holy Virgin. If the house is built as a dowry for the daughter, then some of her personal possessions such as a dress or a shoe are also included in the cornerstone. Usually a big dinner of roast lamb follows the laying of the cornerstone.

A second ceremony occurs when the topmost beam of the house is in place. The roof has not yet been laid, but this is the time for the family to bring presents to the workmen, who upon receiving a gift call out the name of the donor and wish him many years and a happy life. Later on, when the house is finished, the priest is called. He must be the first person to enter, after which he blesses the house and departs. Thereupon, for good luck, a young boy must be the first to step in.

Now the furniture can be installed and the family can settle down. The dowry chests, containing valuables saved up for the unmarried daughter, will be placed along a wall and the dowry blankets piled on top. "And unmarried girls must never sit on this chest or they will never get married," declared our informant.

Other furniture includes a small table along the wall over which is hung a large mirror. The family photographs are stuck into the edges of the mirror frame. Pictures also decorate the walls, as do pots and pans and other cooking utensils. Two or three chairs complete the roll call of furniture.

In other visits to village homes our attention was directed more to the court than to the interior. The weather would be warm and balmy and the vines in leaf. The family had in reality moved out of doors for the season,

1:Sanders Z-5/4 (1952-1959) 1962 EH1 Greece EH1

even to the extent of sleeping on the portico, on the roof balcony, or anywhere else where they found it comfortable. As a matter of fact, some students of the Greek house think the court the basic element, and the other parts of the house an adaptation to it and to the other needs connected with the individual peasant's kind of agriculture. Where the court is covered with flagstones, it serves for a longer season than do those that turn to mud after the fall or spring rains begin.

The court is separated from the street by some kind of wall or a fence of holm-oak branches. In the plains villages these walls, like the houses, are of mud brick. They too are white-washed a brilliant white on the Monday of Holy Week before Easter. Later on, when the rains come and the white-wash wears away, the walls take on a drabness that made travelers from early times on down to our day describe these plains villages as unattractive. Where the walls are well kept, where there are attractive tiled gateways — as in Macedonia — large enough for the wagon to drive through, the yards behind have a mysterious and richer look.

The village setting is part of the Greek peasant's physical adjustment to the land. Throughout Greece there are many variations in the appearances of the settlements due to differences in terrain, location, and communication. Villages set in the shadow of a towering mountain and surrounded by a forest of firs have a snug look; those whose green trees and vines are the only cool color in a vast stretch of hot brown fields invite one to stop and rest; those which stand proudly on the brow of a hill seem to be keeping a watchful eye on the farmlands lying around. Others, perched on some airy height, dare you to climb and visit them, and anyone doing so will be surprised to find that behind the village there is a broad shoulder of the mountain which provides good farmland to those willing to live there on the heights. For many villages the dark blue sea is part of the setting, even though none of the villagers may be able to swim a stroke. Whatever the location, the villager has the deep belief that his village site is the best possible one. The water of his village is the best-tasting in the world, and in moments of homesickness when he is away from his native place he would give anything for a drink of that water again and for a chance to see the incomparable view from his village.

1:Sanders Z-5,4 (1952-1959) 1962 EH1 Greece EH1

and were therefore limited to the wool, which was available and which the women could work, even for underwear and sheets. Cotton, much more difficult to spin and weave, became known in the eighteenth century to the plains villages visited by outside traders, but it was considered a luxury.

In Macedonia the women use the looms chiefly for making heavy blankets and for the dowry items, but not for clothing. According to the home economists there, the families now buy underclothes, stockings, shoes, extra sheets, pillow cases, and towels. A woman will still knit undershirts for the men and pullovers for children out of the woolen thread she has spun for herself. She will buy material and make garments for children who go to school. At about sixteen years of age a girl will buy material and take it to the village seamstress to be sewn up into special garments for her dowry. But new garments are not the only problem. The woman is kept busy darning everybody's clothing, and few are the work clothes without two or more patches.

In many villages Friday is washday, demanding heavy work for which machinery is not yet a substitute. For the woolen garments the women follow the centuries-old method of beating out the dirt with sticks or paddles around the fountain or along a running stream. Most women prefer to carry the clothes to the water, often at some distance from the house. Warm water may or may not be used, depending upon the fuel supply. Women are especially interested in improvements in the water supply, and the forms these take seem to follow a set sequence. First, the women start going to a spring or a stream for the water, carrying one large jar on their heads and another in their hands or else loading casks full of water onto a donkey. Then someone, either the municipality or a prosperous Greek-American from that village, arranges to have the water piped from the spring or stream to a central fountain. To this spot, much nearer than the former one, all of the women come once or twice a day as occasion demands.[11] The third stage is that of piping the water by the municipality to different sections of the village so that there are neighborhood spigots instead of a central fountain. The fourth stage, that of piping water to individual homes, is not yet even talked about in most villages, although here and there one finds a native son returned from abroad who has enough capital to drill a well or otherwise arrange for his own private water supply. This is the exception rather than the common expectation. The villages of Greece, like those of other countries, demonstrate the close relationship between the extent of woman's toil and the presence of a convenient source of water.

Farm Tasks

The yard of a Greek village home is never a spic and span showplace; it looks lived in twenty-four hours a day. The geraniums in flower pots on the window sill and the basil growing next to it give a touch of color. Before

2:Friedl E-5 (1955-1959)/863 EH1 Greece EH1
Vasilika

windowless houses. There are also newer versions of the one-story house now being built in the village. They are one-room structures with red brick walls, flat roofs, and no facing of any kind to finish them off. This is the type of house several of the shepherd families have had built for themselves. They find them a considerable improvement over the reed huts. Two young farmers who have married girls from the village have also built houses like these for themselves in order to avoid having to live in the already cramped quarters of their parents.

The other types of construction in the village are stone-walled ovens which are usually extensions of the lower part of the house (access to them is always from outdoors), brick housing for the turkish-style latrines used in the village, stone parapets for the wells which are scattered throughout the village, and the occasional stone wall which surrounds a house compound. The most desired pattern for a household's compound in Vasilika is a large two-story house with an oven, one or two storage houses, a latrine, and a large yard with some mulberry trees, a grape arbor, and a small garden, all surrounded by a ten- or twelve-foot wall with one or two gates as the only mode of entrance and exit. One man in the village has just such a compound. Several others have similar ones, but with lower surrounding walls. For the rest, there may be fewer buildings and no enclosure, or perhaps the requisite buildings with a wire fencing as a substitute for the walls.

The first principle of arrangement of Vasilika's buildings is that places of public resort face the main street and are fairly close to each other at the western end of the village. The principle governing the arrangement of houses is different. They are individually oriented with respect to the street and to Mt. Parnassos (which is off to the northwest) but not with respect to each other. That is to say, the entrance to each house faces either in the direction of the street or directly away from the mountain. This is not true of outbuildings, however, the entrances of which are found on any of the four sides of the buildings. This combination of orientations and the habit of building enclosing stone walls or wire fencing, with the gates or paths through these on different sides, results in a clustering of structures randomly arranged with respect to each other. The single rocky path leading from one house door may reach the entrance of another house, or it may lead along a roundabout path which skirts the back of a storage house, or it may lead to a well yard or to a stone wall. A walk around several house compounds may be necessary to get from one house to the doorway of another which is right next to it. Some buildings have very narrow alleys between them; others are separated from each other by paths of differing widths and open spaces of varying size. The houses of Vasilika are not, therefore, arranged in neat rows with straight paths between, nor are they laid out in an orderly system of concentric semicircles or similar patterns of rectangles or squares. Since the buildings are of different heights themselves and stand on different levels of the hill and since there are no clear rows of paths, one does not get a panoramic view of the activities of the villagers as they move around close to their houses even when one looks down from the windows or verandas of the houses higher up on the slope. Instead, one may see only the back of another house, or a small part of a path which a neighbor uses. Even the

5:Hammond M-5 (1948-1950)1956
EH1 Greece EH1

159
793
292
302
492
351

VII Constantinos Photis

[facing p. 158]

6: McNeill H-5 (1947, 1956) 1957
EH1 Greece EH1
Nea Eleftherohori

[Villages of the Plains]

strung up to dry) and olives (harvested in the late fall and the early winter), the village will be able to distribute its labor over nearly the entire round of the year, and minimize the long seasonal idleness which was characteristic of its older grain-centered type of agriculture.

Another way of describing what has happened in Nea Eleftherohori is to say that during the past five or six years commercial agriculture has largely supplanted a primarily subsistence type of agriculture. Related to this development is a very great change in the appearance of the village and of its inhabitants. Increased money income, deriving from tobacco, has been spent, in part, for city-type clothes, which every self-respecting villager has by now acquired. In part, too, money has been used to fix up the houses, which now appear very clean and tidy. Almost all have been freshly painted or whitewashed, and several families have fenced in tidy yards where a vine trellis gives shade from the sun. On the surface, Nea Eleftherohori appears far more prosperous than Lofiscos. Apparently, a fairly high level of housekeeping has become standard in Nea Eleftherohori, and a great effort is made by almost everyone to present a good front to the neighbors.

The refugees from Asia Minor constitute a partial exception to this rule. Their houses are somewhat shabbier, their dress perceptibly poorer. The old settlers look down upon them as careless farmers and poor housekeepers. The differences are not really great, but the desire to keep ahead of the refugees has probably acted as an important spur to laggard or lazy members of the old settler group, forcing them to improve their homes and to dress better than they might otherwise have done.

Indeed, if I understood the spirit of the village correctly, the desire to maintain a status and keep a respectable front to the world has become the overriding aim of the whole community. One very important consequence is the postponement of mar-

9: Megas

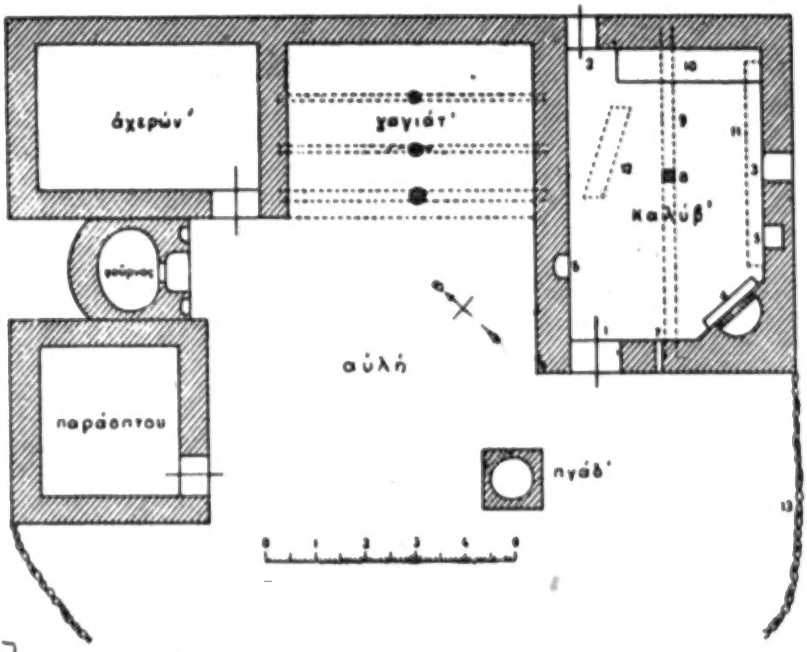
EH1 Greece EH1

231, 252, 351, 354

/For the location of ovens, hearths, courtyards, stables and chicken coops in Greek houses, see category 116, pp. 6-46 and end plates 1-9./

342
341

Another narrow-front type of house is also the so-called καλύβι or χαμόγειο σπίτι (hut, low house) on the island of Lemnos which, as in the two-storey type, has a tiled roof(1) (Fig. 2).



[351]
[312]

Fig. 2 House and courtyard at Physaini in Lemnos
(G. Megas 'Η λαϊκή οἰκοδομία τῆς Λήμνου, fig 2)
Καλύβι (Kalyvi)=low house, hut; χαγιάτι (hayiati)=portico; ἀχερών' (acheron)=hayloft; παράσπιτο (paraspito)=outhouse; αὐλή (avli)=courtyard; πηγάδι (pigadi)=well; φοῦρνος (furnos)=oven.

The wide-front house, however, is found more frequently in the Greek countryside. This house has its entrance and its προστῷον on the long side of the rectangular plan (σπίτια διπλανὰ i.e. side-houses, as they are called in the Haimos villages(2). (Fig. 3 and 4. Plate II).

[104]

of the house: σπίτι (*spiti* [hospitium] = house; οὐντᾶς or ὀντᾶς (*oda* Turk.)=room; μπρούστι (*brusti*) or χαγιάτι (*hayati*) = portico, veranda.

1) **G. Megas**, Ἡ λαϊκὴ οἰκοδομία τῆς Λήμνου, pp. 7 foll.

2) **G. Megas**, Θρᾳκικαὶ Οἰκήσεις p. 27, Θεσσαλικαὶ Οἰκήσεις p. 16. Fig. 10.

This last use contributed in the ground floor an equivalent space, including the staircase for the ascent to the drawing room. Thus, we have a tripartite division of space on the ground floor as well as on the upper floor, having the formations of this type as shown on Plate IV (Fig. 20).

A deviation from this form is created when the middle space is left open in its front part, thus forming as it were an extension of the προστῷον in depth (figg. 20[a] and 21, Plate V 1. 3. 3a).

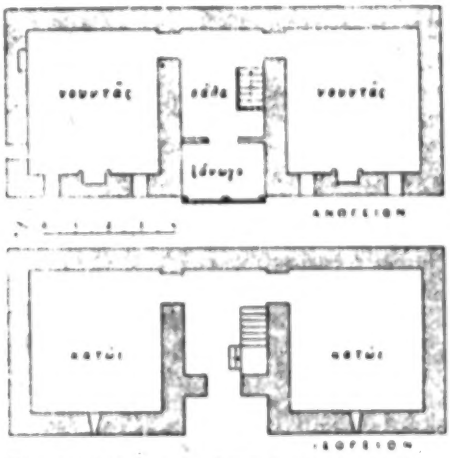


Fig. 20. A two-storey house in Hagios Akakios
(G. Megas, Θεσσαλικαὶ οἰκήσεις, fig. 46)

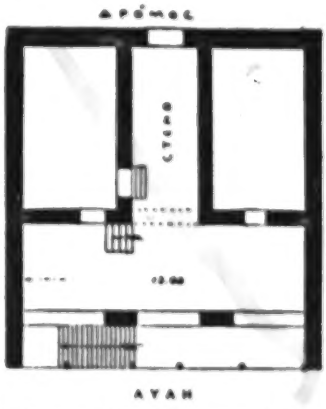


Fig. 20a Plan of the ground floor of a house in Arta
(A. Orlandos, Ἀρχεῖον Βυζαντ. μνημείων τῆς Ἑλλάδος, vol. 3 p. 183)

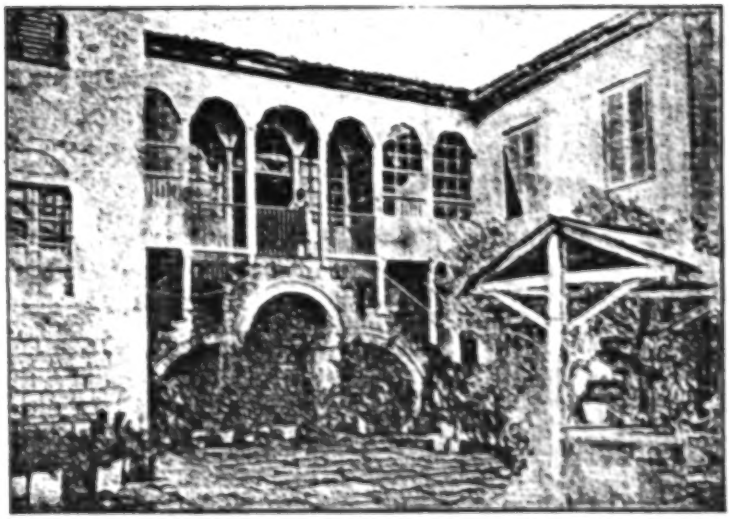
Such an arrangement of space on the ground floor has led to a modification in the way the house communicates with the street in certain urban centres of Northern Greece (Arta, Trikala, Tyrnavos, Ambelakia, ect.). Namely, the exit to the street was originally through the yard upon which the house was facing. But by the latter arrangement, there was only a wall separating the central space of the house from the street. A direct exit to it was then easily provided by the opening of a door on this wall. This, of course, was made only when the fear of direct communication of the house with the street disappeared or at least decreased. But even so, the arrangement of space and the total orientation of the house towards the enclosed yard was kept as before[1] (Figg. 20a and 23, Plate V 2, 2a-c, 7b and 8).

1) See **A. Orlandos,** Ἀρχ. Βυζ. μνημείων τῆς Ἑλλάδος, vol. 2 pp. 185. 186. **G. Megas,** Θεσσ. Οἰκήσεις Figg. 63, 64, 65 and 86.

9:Megas I, B-5, 4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece EH1

[p. 31]

351 ●
342x
[912]



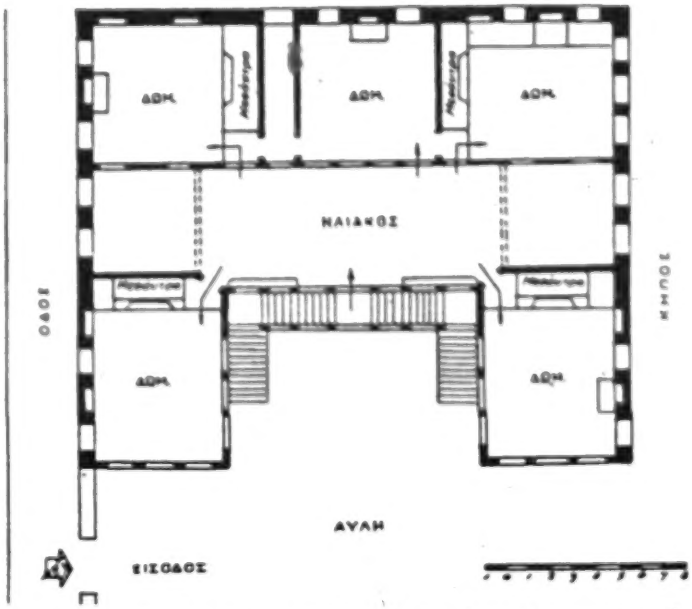


Fig. 22a An old «noble house» at Jannina in Epirus. Photograph and plan made by the architect Aristoteles Zachos (Ἠπειρωτ. Χρονικά, vol. 3 (1928) p. 297, and Pl. 3)

[p. 31]

9:Megas 1, B-5,4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece EH1
[p. 32]

342x
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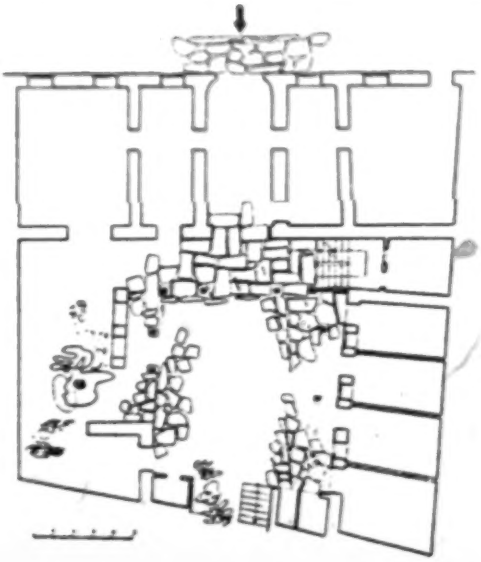


Fig. 23. An old house of Athens, Thucydides street, No 13. Photograph and plan, made by the architect Dr. Ares Constantinidis (Τὰ παλιὰ Ἀθηναϊκὰ σπίτια, Athens 1950 pp. 38 and 77)

[p. 32]

mountains and in hilly districts facing South, the portico of the upper floor is not thoroughly enclosed there, but it either remains completely open, and in this case the end of the roof on the front part of the house is supported by a series of wooden poles (ἀνώϊ, ἡλιακὸς or χορεββάτι) (1) (see fig. 16 and Plate III and IV 2, 3), or it is enclosed only on one side (fig. 21, Plate III and IV 2 a-c, 3 a-b V 3, 3a), or on both sides, (Plate III4, IV4, V5) thus forming one or two rooms. 342×

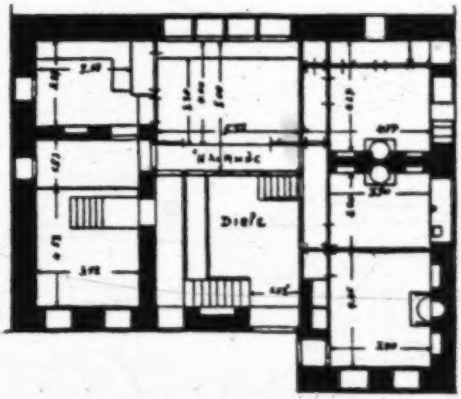
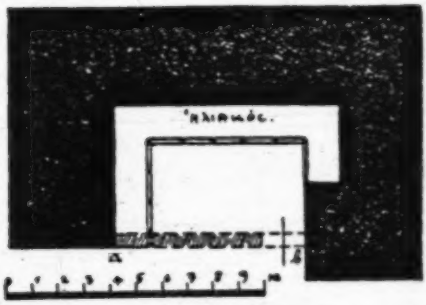


Fig. 24 Plan of a »noble house« in Siatista, Macedonia (Ar. Zachos, Wasmuts Monatshefte f. Baukunst 1922/23 VII p. 247)



»The wall a-b was added in later years; it joined the two ends of the peristyle and closed the open side. A closed space was thus formed, a courtyard, which hence belonged to the interior of the house« (A. Zachos)

These rooms often extend over the building line, so that the whole construction very clearly takes the form of Γ or Π on the plan (2) (fig. 22. 22a Plate III 6a-b, IV 2c 3c-e 4a). Thus the open portico is limited to only a part of the frontage of the house. When the portico is continued as an open side arcade in front of the rooms along the sides of [351]

1) **G. Megas,** Θεσσαλικαὶ Οἰκήσεις figg. 32, 35, 36.
2) Ibid. pp. 67 foll. figg. No. 57-60, 62, 80a, 81a.

9:Megas I,B-5,4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece EH1

the Γ or Π, then the spaces appear as if extending concentrically around the central yard, which is surrounded by a peristyle (1) (figg. 22 and 23 Plate V 3[a] 5[a-b] 6-6[a-b] 7[b] 8).

This yard, in districts where the winter is severe and security was formerly scanty (Siatista, Kozani, Kastoria, Naoussa), was closed on the front part also by a wall as high as the roof, so that it appeared as a peristyle yard having around it the rooms of the house (2) (Fig. 24

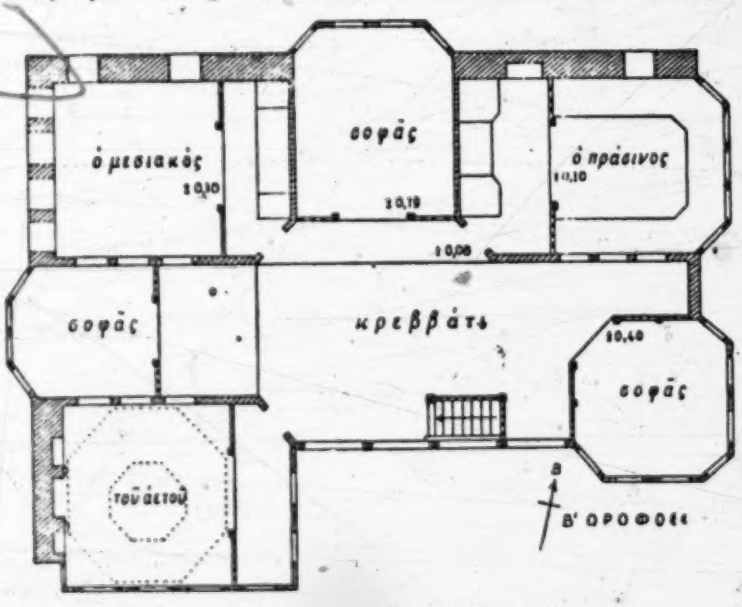


Fig. 25 A floor in the house of G. Sfortzos at Ambelakia
(G. Megas. Οικοκλινικαί Οικίαι, fig. 80a)

Plate V 7, cf. V 6, 6[a], 7[a]) in the same way as it is seen in the Greek house of the Hellenistic period. Although we cannot say that this composite form of the modern Greek house is the direct outcome of the ancient Greek house, we still think that this method of formation is clear enough to understand the ancient formation.

In these more composite forms, the «sofa», about which we have spoken above, may also open to the arms of the Γ or the Π, and

1) Ibid. figg. No. 63, 72, 81a, 82.
2) Ibid. pp. 108 foll. figg. 90, 91.